

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A system for determining forwarding information for a data frame received by a network device, comprising:
 - a plurality of input ports configured to receive a plurality of data frames;
 - queuing logic configured to transfer at least some of the received data frames to an external memory;
 - a forwarding engine configured to generate forwarding information for at least some of the received data frames transferred by the queuing logic to the external memory; and
 - a port filter configured to store forwarding information for one or more of the received data frames, analyze each of the received data frames to determine whether there is stored forwarding information relating to the received data frame, and, when there is stored forwarding information relating to the received data frame, using the stored forwarding information to forward the received data frame,wherein the port filter is further configured to mask the transferal of the received data frame by the queuing logic to the external memory causing the forwarding engine to ignore the transferal of the received data frame.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the port filter includes:
 - a programmable memory configured to store the forwarding information for the one or

more received data frames.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the forwarding information is stored in the programmable memory by a host device.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the port filter includes:
a lookup table configured to store identifying information relating to the one or more received data frames.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the port filter is configured to compare a portion of each of the received data frames to the identifying information in the lookup table to determine whether there is stored forwarding information corresponding to the received data frame.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the forwarding engine is further configured to bypass generation of forwarding information for the received data frame when the forwarding engine ignores the transferal of the received data frame.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least some of the one or more

received data frames are related to each other.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the related data frames correspond to data frames exchanged in a point-to-point communication.

10. (Currently amended) A method for determining forwarding information for a data frame received by a network device, comprising:

receiving, prior to receipt of one or more identified data frames at the network device, forwarding information for the one or more identified data frames from a source external to the network device;

programming a memory to store the forwarding information for the one or more identified data frames;

receiving a plurality of data frames;

analyzing each of the received data frames to determine whether the received data frame corresponds to one of the one or more identified data frames; ~~and~~

using the stored forwarding information to forward the received data frame when the received data frame corresponds to one of the one or more identified data frames;

storing at least some of the received data frames in an external memory; and

masking the storing of the received data frame in the external memory when the received data frame corresponds to one of the one or more identified data frames.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
generating forwarding information for the received data frame when the received data frame does not correspond to one of the one or more identified data frames.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein receiving the forwarding information includes:
receiving the forwarding information from an external host device.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the network device includes a lookup table configured to store identifying information for the one or more identified data frames; and
wherein the analyzing each of the received data frames includes:
comparing a portion of each of the received data frames to the identifying information in the lookup table to determine whether the received data frame corresponds to one of the one or more identified data frames.
- 14-15. (Canceled)
16. (Previously presented) A multiport network device, comprising:
a memory configured to store forwarding information associated with one or more data frames;

a lookup table configured to store identifying information relating to the one or more data frames;

a plurality of input ports configured to receive a plurality of data frames;

queuing logic configured to transfer at least some of the received data frames to an external memory;

a forwarding engine configured to generate forwarding information for at least some of the received data frames transferred by the queuing logic to the external memory; and

a port filter configured to compare a portion of each of the received data frames to the identifying information stored in the lookup table to determine whether the received data frame is related to one of the one or more data frames for which the memory stores forwarding information, and, when the received data frame is related to one of the one or more data frames, prevent the forwarding engine from generating forwarding information for the received data frame and use the stored forwarding information to forward the received data frame,

wherein the forwarding engine is configured to ignore transferal of the received data frame to the external memory when the port filter masks the transferal of the received data frame.

17. (Original) The multiport switch network device of claim 16, wherein a host device stores the forwarding information in the memory.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The multiport network device of claim 16, wherein the forwarding engine is further configured to bypass generation of forwarding information for the received data frame when the forwarding engine ignores the transferal of the received data frame.

20. (Currently amended) A switch, comprising:

- an interface configured to receive first frame forwarding information associated with certain data frames from a source external to the switch prior to receipt of the certain data frames at the switch;
- a port filter configured to store the received first frame forwarding information;
- a plurality of input ports configured to receive a plurality of data frames;

wherein the port filter is further configured to:

- identify the data frames of the received plurality of data frames that are the certain data frames,
- mask storing of ones of the received plurality of data frames in an external
- memory that are identified as the certain data frames,
- retrieve the stored first frame forwarding information associated with the certain data frames, and
- use the stored first frame forwarding information to forward the certain data frames; and

a forwarding unit configured to:

perform a forwarding lookup for data frames of the plurality of data frames not identified as the certain data frames to generate second frame forwarding information, and

use the second frame forwarding information to forward the data frames not identified as the certain data frames.